



Michigan BRFSS

MICHIGAN BRFSS SURVEILLANCE BRIEF

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CHRONIC DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY SECTION, MDCH

High Public Support for Tobacco Policies in Michigan

As of September 1, 2008, 34 states have approved legislation that prohibits smoking in workplaces, including bars and restaurants. Tobacco policies that have been implemented with respect to making worksites (including bars and restaurants) smoke-free, as well as increasing taxes on tobacco products and strengthening licensing requirements on tobacco retailers have been shown to have an impact on: (1) prompting more smokers to try to quit, (2) increasing the number of successful quit attempts, (3) reducing the number of cigarettes that continuing smokers consume, and (4) discouraging youth from ever starting to smoke.¹

In order to gauge the level of support for tobacco-related legislative activities in Michigan, three questions focusing on smoke-free restaurant laws, increasing taxes on tobacco products other than cigarettes, and licensing tobacco retailers were added to the 2007 Michigan Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFS).

It is estimated that 74.9% of Michigan adults would support a law that eliminated smoking in all restaurants within Michigan. In addition, 69.0% of Michigan adults would support an increased tax on other tobacco products, such as cigars, smokeless tobacco and loose tobacco, and 69.3% would support the licensing of storeowners who sell tobacco products (Table 1). Even though the overall levels of support for all three policies were high, several differences in levels of support were reported for certain subpopulations.

Table 1. Prevalence of Tobacco-Related Policy Support among Michigan Adults, 2007 MiBRFS

	Support of Smoke-free Restaurant Legislation ^a		Support of Tax on Other Tobacco Products ^b		Support of Storeowner Tobacco Licensing ^c	
	%	P value	%	P value	%	P value
Total	74.9	---	69.0	---	69.3	---
Gender						
Male	68.4	< 0.001*	62.4	< 0.001*	62.1	< 0.001*
Female	81.3		75.7		76.3	
Race						
White	73.9	< 0.01*	68.8	0.58	68.6	0.02*
Black	82.9		70.8		76.0	
Education						
High school grad or less	70.3	< 0.01*	60.1	< 0.001*	66.3	0.05*
Some college or more	77.7		74.6		71.1	
Household Income						
< \$50,000	71.8	0.03*	64.3	< 0.001*	68.7	0.97
\$50,000 +	77.0		75.2		68.6	

^a The proportion of respondents who reported "Yes" to the following question: "Some communities in other states have or are considering implementing laws that would make all restaurants smoke free, that is eliminate all tobacco smoke from restaurants. Would you support such a law in your community?"

^b The proportion of respondents who reported "Yes" to the following question: "Currently in Michigan, tobacco products such as cigars, smokeless tobacco, and loose tobacco are taxed at a lower rate than cigarettes. Some states are considering increasing the tax on these other tobacco products and using the money specifically to help prevent tobacco use in children, help current tobacco users quit, and provide health care services. Would you support an increased tax on other tobacco products?"

^c The proportion of respondents who reported that they "Strongly Agree" or "Moderately Agree" with the following question: "Currently in Michigan, storeowners are not required to have a license to sell tobacco products. Please tell me how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statement: Storeowners should be required to have a license to sell tobacco products so that laws prohibiting tobacco sales to minors can be better enforced. Do you..."

* Statistically significant at p = 0.05.

MiBRFSS News

- Development of the 2009 Michigan BRFS questionnaire is underway and selected state-added questions are being pretested.
- A special report on depression from the 2006 MiBRFS will soon be available on our website: www.michigan.gov/brfs.
- The 2007 Michigan BRFS Annual Report is near completion and will be available in print and on our website in the near future.
- Did you miss an issue of *Michigan BRFSS Surveillance Brief*? Back issues are also available on our website.

High Public Support for Tobacco Policies in Michigan (cont.)

Females (81.3%) were more likely to support smoke-free restaurant laws compared with males (68.4%), as were Blacks (82.9%) compared to Whites (73.9%) (Table 1). Individuals with at least some college (77.7%) were more likely to support smoke-free restaurants when compared to individuals with a high school education or less (70.3%), and individuals with incomes of $\geq \$50,000$ (77.0%) were more likely to support this smoke-free policy when compared to lower income individuals (71.8%). Subpopulation differences in support of increased taxes on other tobacco products and support of storeowner tobacco licensing were similar, in most cases, to that of the smoke-free restaurant policy.

When investigating support for smoke-free restaurant legislation by current smoking status, large differences were observed (Figure 1). Current smokers (49.5% [95% CI: 43.7-55.4]) were less likely to be in support of smoke-free restaurants compared with former smokers (73.8% [95% CI: 70.0-77.3]) and never smokers (86.0% [95% CI: 83.3-88.3]). Despite the fact that current smokers were less likely to support smoke-free restaurant legislation, it is important to note that nearly 50% (49.5%) of current smokers in Michigan were in support of a law that would prohibit them from smoking in restaurants.

Significant differences in support for increased taxes on other tobacco products were observed by use of other tobacco products. Users of other tobacco products (53.2% [95% CI: 39.5-66.4]) were less likely than nonusers (69.9% [95% CI: 67.5-72.2]) to support an increased tax on other tobacco products. However, it is important to note that over half (53.2%) of current other tobacco users, in fact, would support an increased tax on the other tobacco products they purchase.

These results clearly show that the majority of Michigan adults are in favor of legislative policies that would make restaurants smoke-free, increase taxes on other tobacco products, and require storeowners to have special licensing to sell tobacco products. This public support is important since the workplace is the primary source of exposure to secondhand smoke for adult non-smokers.²⁻³ Levels of secondhand smoke in restaurants and bars are approximately 1.6 times greater and 7.6 times greater than in office workplaces, respectively.⁴ In addition, taxes on other tobacco products need to be comparable to those on cigarettes in order to prevent smokers from switching to other tobacco products.⁵ Furthermore, increased taxes on tobacco products coupled with more severe penalties for storeowners that provide tobacco products to underage individuals can lead to a decrease in youth tobacco use.⁶

References

- 1 Tobacco Free Kids. *Smoke-Free Laws Encourage Smokers to Quit and Discourage Youth from Starting*. 2006. <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0198.pdf>. [accessed September 24, 2008].
- 2 Hammond SK. Exposure of U.S. Workers to Environmental Tobacco Smoke. *Environ Health Perspect*. 1999; 107(suppl. 2):329-340.
- 3 Shopland DR, et al. State-Specific Trends in Smokefree Workplace Policy Coverage: the Current Population Tobacco Use Supplement, 1993 to 1999. *J Occup Environ Med*. 2001; 43:680-686.
- 4 Siegel M, Skeer M. Exposure to Secondhand Smoke and Excess Lung Cancer Mortality Risk among Workers in the "5 B's": Bars, Bowling Alleys, Billiard Halls, Betting Establishments and Bingo Parlors. *Tob Control*. 2003; 12:333-338.
- 5 Ohsfeldt RL, Boyle RG, Capilouto E. Effects of Tobacco Excise Taxes on the Use of Smokeless Tobacco Products in the USA. *Health Econ*. 1997; 6(5):525-531.
- 6 Ogilvie D, Gruer L, Haw S. Young People's Access to Tobacco, Alcohol, and Other Drugs. *BMJ*. 2005; 331(7513): 393-396.

Figure 1. Support of Smoke-Free Restaurant Legislation by Smoking Status - 2007 Michigan BRFSS

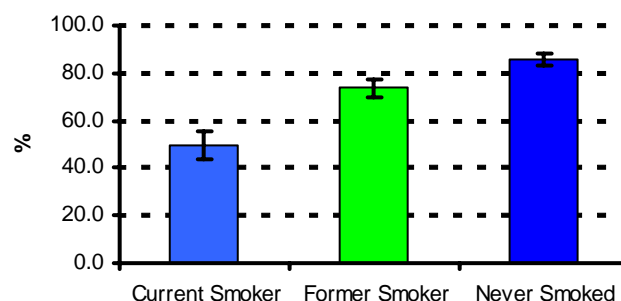
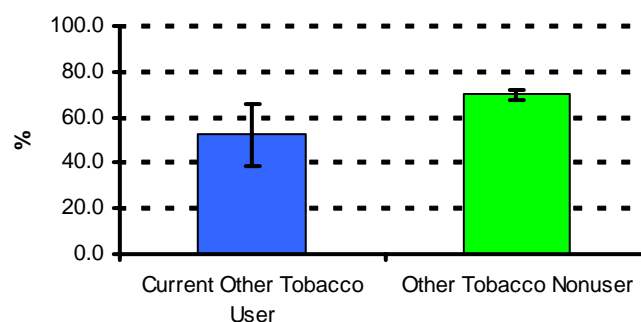


Figure 2. Support of Tax on Other Tobacco Products by Other Tobacco Use - 2007 Michigan BRFSS



The Michigan Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (MiBRFSS)

The MiBRFSS comprises annual, statewide telephone surveys of Michigan adults aged 18 years and older and is part of the national BRFSS coordinated by the CDC. The annual Michigan Behavioral Risk Factor Surveys (MiBRFS) follow the CDC BRFSS protocol and use the standardized English core questionnaire that focuses on various behaviors, medical conditions, and preventive health care practices related to the leading causes of mortality, morbidity, and disability. Interviews are conducted across each calendar year. Data are weighted to adjust for the probabilities of selection and a poststratification weighting factor that adjusts for the sex, age, and race distribution of the adult Michigan population. All analyses are performed using SAS-callable SUDAAN® to account for the complex sampling design.

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